

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A dock leveller comprising:

a frame having an extension hinge for pivotal movement along a first axis and a first pivot connection defining a second axis, the respective axes oriented at a first spacing there between;

a deck coupled to the extension hinge having a deck plate with a deck upper surface;

a lip having a lip upper surface, the lip upper surface and the deck upper surface forming a least a part of a transport path;

a lip hinge coupled to the lip and the deck for relative pivotal movement of the respective lip and deck upper surfaces along a third axis that is oriented a second spacing from the first axis;

a second pivot connection operatively coupled to the lip and defining a fourth axis that is oriented with respect to the lip hinge ~~second~~ third axis identical to the first spacing; and

a transmission member pivotally coupled to the first and second pivot connections, establishing an operable spacing between the ~~third~~ second and fourth axes that is identical to the second spacing in at least one mode of operation, so that the four respective axes define vertices of a parallelogram.

1 Claim 37 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in
2 claim 36 wherein the maximum overall relative pivoting range of
3 the respective lip and deck upper surfaces is approximately 14
4 degrees.

1 Claim 38 (previously presented): The dock leveller of claim 36,
2 wherein the deck upper surface operative pivoting range relative
3 to the platform is no more than approximately 7.5 degrees.

1 Claim 39 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in
2 claim 36 wherein the stiff element comprises a variable length
3 element.

1 Claim 40 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in
2 claim 39 wherein the variable length element comprises a
3 pressurized fluid cylinder.

1 Claim 41 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in
2 claim 36 wherein the lip hinge comprises an elastically deformable
3 material.

1 Claim 42 (previously presented): The dock leveller recited in
2 claim 36 wherein the extension hinge comprises an elastically
3 deformable material.

1 Claim 43 (withdrawn): A method for operating a dock leveller that
2 is coupled to a platform, wherein the dock leveller has a deck
3 pivotally coupled thereto, the deck having a deck upper surface
4 that defines a range of pivotal motion relative to the platform,
5 a lip having a lip upper surface, the lip pivotally coupled to
6 the deck for relative pivotal movement of the respective lip and
7 deck upper surfaces, the lip upper surface and the deck upper

8 surface forming a least a part of a transport path with at least
9 a portion of the platform; and a transmission member coupled to
10 the lip for orienting the lip upper surface, the method
11 comprising:

12 pivoting the deck plate relative to the platform and
13 manipulating the transmission member for maintaining a generally
14 constant lip upper surface orientation angle with respect to said
15 portion of the platform throughout the deck upper surface pivotal
16 range.

1 Claim 44 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43 further comprising
2 additional transmission member manipulation for selective
3 repositioning of the lip upper surface relative to the deck upper
4 surface.

1 Claim 45 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein the maximum
2 overall relative pivoting range of the respective lip and deck
3 upper surfaces is approximately 14 degrees.

1 Claim 46 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein the deck
2 upper surface operative pivoting range relative to the platform is
3 no more than approximately 7.5 degrees.

1 Claim 47 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, further comprising
2 declinating the deck upper surface relative to the platform, so
3 that the deck plate is capable of establishing a downwardly
4 sloping transport path from the platform to the lip upper surface.

1 Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 43, wherein at least a
2 part of the platform within the transport path is generally
3 horizontal and the lip upper surface orientation relative to said

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4 part of the platform is within 2 degrees throughout the deck upper
5 surface pivotal range.